



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Announces Two New Fee-Free Recreation Days

(Columbia SC)- The U.S. Forest Service announced today that it will offer two new fee waiver weekends during the summer of 2010. The first fee waiver weekend will celebrate National Trails Day on June 5-6, 2010. The second weekend will honor the back-to-school season on August 14-15, 2010.

For these weekends, fees will be waived at all day-use fee sites operated by the Forest Service. On the Francis Marion National Forest day-use fees will be waived at Buck Hall boating and picnic area and on the Wambaw Cycle Trail. On the Sumter National Forest fees will be waived at Fell, Lick Fork and Parsons Mountain day use areas on the Long Cane Ranger District; and on Buncombe Horse Trail and Enoree OHV Trail on the Enoree Ranger District.

“Fee-free days offer the public a chance to explore scenic areas and recreational activities they may never have experienced,” said Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Forest Supervisor Paul Bradley. “It’s a way to introduce newcomers to the variety of recreational opportunities on the forests, as well as a way to say ‘thank-you’ to our regular visitors for continued enthusiasm and support.”

The Forest Service is honoring these two fee waiver weekends in addition to its traditional fee waiver days – National Public Lands Day and Veterans Day, for a total of four events in 2010.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.